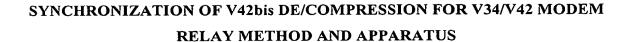
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## **ABSTRACT**

Method and apparatus for synchronizing two de/compression modems, e.g. V.42bis modems, in a voice frame network, the modems each being connected with a corresponding gateway to form a corresponding segment, are described. The method includes terminating the physical layer at either end of the corresponding gateways; negotiating at either gateway a physical layer and error-correcting data link layer with the corresponding modem; sending from either gateway to an associated modem in response to any poll command therefrom a not-ready message; signaling the other gateway when physical layer and error-correcting data link layer negotiations have been completed; and when each gateway has signaled the other that negotiations have been completed, halting the not-ready message-sending and sending instead a ready message to a corresponding modem, whereby synchronized compressed and decompressed data transmissions between the modems commences on a reliable transport. Preferably, thereafter, and upon occurrence of a destructive break condition or receipt at either gateway from a corresponding modem of an initiate data transfer command, such condition or receipt is relayed from a segment where it is detected to the other segment, thereby maintaining synchronization between the modems. Preferably, the messages and commands are compliant with the ITU-T V.42 protocol.